

# ∞ The Family Times ∞

The best thing to come from China in 2020

December 25, 2020

Now with less fake news that all major networks!



## THERE AND BACK AGAIN

Returning to America

By ANDREW

It was a long struggle to make it work, but we eventually got it working. We aimed for a flight on Korean air, going from China to Korea to Chicago on June 15<sup>th</sup>. That didn't work out the way we expected. Due to the Corona Virus (Later it got called Covid19, and then it was called The Pandemic) the flights got changed to July 17<sup>th</sup>. We were thinking, at least they all changed. But, as July 17<sup>th</sup> got close, our tickets got canceled. Again and again we arranged flights, and they kept getting moved so they wouldn't connect right, or they were canceled. When we finally got tickets in AUGUST for Kunming to Shanghai to a short stop at Seoul that we didn't have to get off the plane for to San Francisco to Chicago, at least I was doubting if it would work. The Shanghai to San Francisco was a day after our first flight, and the San Francisco to Chicago was just 3 hours after the Shanghai to San Francisco landed! That may seem long, but with 6 people and 12 carryons to go and grab and push to the next gate, that is cutting it close. But, thankfully, it all worked out, and now we are in America!🌍





## A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS

### THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

DRAWING BY ABIGAIL (SEE THE BIRTHDAY PARTY HATS?)



**"Dear God, help all the sick people to get better. Help Grandma Sharla to have a good birthday. And help Andrew to have a good birthday. And help baby Jesus to have a good birthday." – Abigail**

### CHRISTMAS POEM

Verse 2 Added 2020

BY ALEXANDER

A SAVIOR'S BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY  
ON THIS DAY HOORAY WE SAY  
WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED UP ON THE HILL  
THE ANGEL SAID FEAR NOT A SAVIOR'S BORN TILL MORNING STILL  
THEY CAME WITH HASTE  
AND FOUND MARY JOSEPH AND THE BABE ALL IN PLACE  
FOR HOORAY WE SAY  
ON CHRISTMAS DAY  
THEN LATER 3 WISE MEN FAR SAW THE STAR  
FOR HOORAY WE SAY ON CHRISTMAS DAY  
THEY WENT TO HEROD FOR THEY CARED  
FOR THE CHILD SO MEEK AND MILD  
FOR HOORAY WE SAY ON CHRISTMAS DAY  
HE SENT THEM BY THE JEWS TO BRING HIM NEWS  
THEY FOUND THE CHILD SO MEEK AND MILD  
AND IN HIS PRESENCE THEY GAVE HIM GOLD MYRRH AND FRANKINCENSE  
FOR HOORAY WE SAY ON CHRISTMAS DAY.



### Rugg Home

BY ALEXANDER

Headline News:

First news issue of Rugg home comes out, family reads issue! And Christmas pictures! Family changes clothes for this event of Christmas pictures. everyone reads first issue next to the decorated Christmas tree, laughs for comics extreme. Regular news: And Sam is left out all night with an accident from owner.





## Christmas Tree

By ABIGAIL

We got a Christmas tree at Abbey Farms. It was really fun. We had to look and look for just the right one. It was really long. We looked in two fields to find it. Finally we found just the right one. Then we had cut it down. We had to take turns cutting and cutting. Finally, I got the last turn and I cut it down. Then we paid for it. Then I stopped for a potty break in a funny potty that had a seat AND toilet paper but could NEVER flush. Then we went home. The Christmas tree and two brothers rode with Grandpa Jeff, but we got the snacks. At home everyone got to drink hot cocoa. Later we decorated it with Grandma Mary and Sugar (the cat). We got to eat cookies and drink cocoa again!



## KUIPER'S FAMILY FARM

By ANDREW

At first we were going to do U-pick apple picking, but there was a really long line, so we went to the pumpkin patch farm on the other side of the street. Grandma Mary and Grandpa Jeff got our tickets, and we went in. the first thing we went to was this lasso thing, and I think most of the time I just hooked it on. Next we went to Charlotte's webs of fun, which was this giant rope web we climbed up. Next we went into a maze, and it seemed like the only way to get out, was the way you got in, unless you cheated. Then we went to these tire swing horses, and then, we tested our strength. I'm not sure if we passed the first level. We did a ducky race thing, where you had to get your ducky to the end by pumping water, but mine didn't work. Then, we slid down a giant slide that they called Mt. Kuiper. Then we got our pumpkin and left after a tug of war.

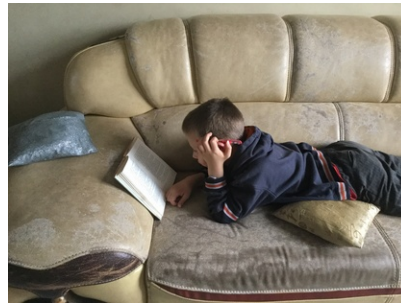
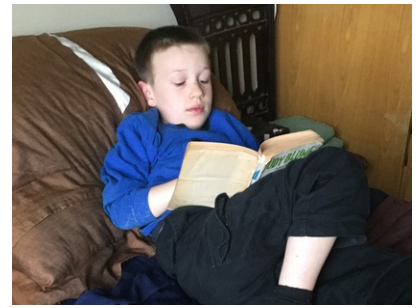






### Poetry Tea Time

February poems about love and groundhogs



### Reading Challenge

By AARON

We were planned to leave for America on June 17th. So Mom said we could have the entire month (up until we had to leave) off of regular jobs, but that she would offer prizes for reading the paper books we had to leave behind. She said there were going to be prizes for the most pages read, the most books read to Abigail, the most picture books, and the most chapter books. She would also pay us for every page, chapter book, and picture books separately. When our flights got postponed to somewhere in July, Mom decided that the reading challenge would go on to the end of June. That gave us a lot of time to read books, so when it ended, I had read 7596 pages of chapter books, 1578 pages of picture books, and I won the prizes of reading the most pages of chapter books, most books read to Abigail, and the longest book. Andrew won the most pages of Picture books, with 1618 pages of picture books and 4718 pages of chapter books. Alexander read 1426 pages of picture books and 2410 pages of chapter books, and won catching up the most at the end. Abigail read 788 pages by herself, 818 listened to, and won the prize of reading her first chapter book. The reading challenge was fun, but I'm still waiting on Mom to declare the month of January a Chess Challenge.



### Reading Buddies

Resting and reading on our tablets



### Re-Reading

Revisiting old favorites, especially *Calvin & Hobbes*







## 开心英语

### CLOSING A DOOR

After several years of operating Joyful English, the changes in government regulations meant we were forced to close. Our accountants handled the closing paperwork for us and threw us a fantastic goodbye party with lots of jiao zi and fun for the kids. 🍵

### RECYCLING AU REVOIR

(TO EVERY SINGLE TREASURE AND PIECE OF OLD JUNK ALIKE THAT WE TOOK TO THE RECYCLING DUMP.)

"I AM SORRY OLD FRIEND. GOODBYE OLD FRIEND."

—ABIGAIL



### LEGION'S LETTERS

After living under a communist dictatorship for over ten years, Nate and Anna were not surprised by the oppressive and opportunistic response the Chinese Communist Party had when the Covid-19 pandemic began. What did catch them off-guard was that when the same communist tactics played out in America and other Western countries, the vast majority of the population fell for it and capitulated immediately.

Recognizing that the real pandemic was the plague of spiritual darkness spreading through out the world, Nate and Anna desired to awaken people to the truth but found that many were very resistant to listen. One night, Nate had the idea to use a story to try to share the truth of what is going on in a fun and engaging way. Thus, *Legion's Letters* was born. Nathan began in May and had the book mostly finished before the family returned to America. After a few months of polishing, *Legion's Letters* was first released in October.

They gave away several copies of the book to the members of their home church. Many have told how helpful the book was, and since that time, the cloud of spiritual darkness has not been present at that church (which is now operating at normal capacity again with no restrictions of any kind). It is their hope and prayer that *Legion's Letters* will be continued to be used to dispel both the spiritual darkness as well as the darkness of misinformation that is hovering over the hearts and minds of many.

Get *Legion's Letters* free at [LegionsLetters.com/free](https://LegionsLetters.com/free).



### ALEXANDER'S BRIEFCASE

I'm not sure how it happened, Grandpa had been using this briefcase for a long time and while we were doing dishes Grandpa walked in and said "Who needs a briefcase!" I immediately took the chance of having my very own briefcase, I simply and quickly said "i do!" and Grandpa showed me how to open it and all the cases in it and the lock that he didn't have the key for. I first I thought he was joking but he still gave it to me.<sup>1</sup>

@My  
business†

well it's not that a big deal there was just some green mail leftover and I got it and pretended it was a letter from my boss and then I got more mail nobody needed and then I had my business, my boss was named mr. Roger, later Grandpa gave me a briefcase<sup>2</sup> with which I used to store my work/mail in.



- 1 I am very sure that's all the detail to be explained.
- 2 The briefcase part is talked about in the first page.

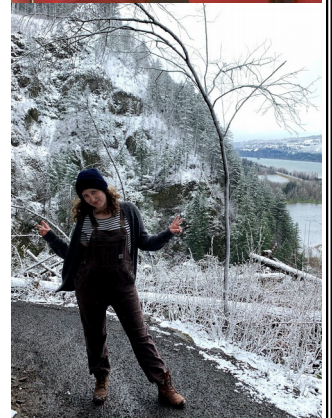
To learn more about the truth behind the pandemic, check out the bonus notes section of the *Legion's Letters* website at [LegionsLetters.com/notes](https://LegionsLetters.com/notes).





## TRAVEL & TOURING

Caleb and Joanna planned to spend the year traveling to different areas for Joanna's travel nursing job and sightseeing during her days off. They were able to experience both coasts, city and small town life, but lockdowns and widespread closures prevented them from doing much touring. At the end of the year they decided to move back to Madison, WI and enjoy the snowy Midwest for the time being.



## OUTDOOR ESCAPADES

Caleb and Joanna spend much of 2020 exploring the outdoors. They discover it is the one thing they like wherever they travel.

## SIBLING TIME

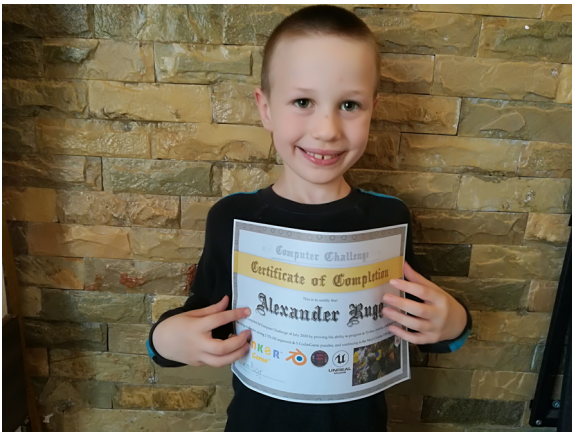


## ROCKING THE PPE

JOANNA SPORTS THIS SEASON'S LATEST LOOKS







## COMPUTER CHALLENGE

By Aaron

When our flights got postponed to August, Dad and Mom decided that we could still keep having regular school off, and do a computer challenge where we would try to complete a minimum of different tasks, and maybe complete more. The tasks were: We could optionally make something on UE4, a 3D game engine or make something on Blender, but once a week we had to complete a Javascript or Python lesson on Tynker, complete a puzzle on Codingame, complete a TIS-100 puzzle, and complete a couple of Project Euler puzzles. The Javascript and Python lessons on Tynker started out easy, with just calling certain commands, but at the end it showed you how to make a game like Turtle or Tetris. The Codingame puzzles were all different things. Sometimes you had to make a robot that could command a spaceship to shoot at the closest enemy, and it had really cool graphics, but other times it gave you a list, and you had to print out how many primes there were. The TIS-100 puzzles were machine-programming puzzles, where you would receive numbers from two sources, and you had to add them together and send them out to the console. The Project Euler ones, however, were my favorite. In them, it would ask you math questions that weren't actually very hard to figure out by hand, but took a long time to do. For example, the first one I did was: What is the sum of all the multiples of 3 and 5 below 1000. You can easily go through every number below 10 and tell whether a number is a multiple of 3 or 5, but you usually have to write a program to get it done in reasonable time. At the end, I got 26 Project Euler puzzles done, 8 TIS-100 puzzles, 8 Codingame, and made a picture of a donut tower in Blender. Andrew solved 3 Project Euler puzzles, 7 TIS-100 puzzles, 4 Codingame puzzles, and created a flying car in Blender. Alexander solved 2 TIS-100 puzzles, 5 Codingame puzzles, worked a lot on a Mech Combat game in UE4, and created a fish battle in Blender. Abigail's challenge was a little different. After I promised I'd spin her around once for every 10 times she beeped Grandpa's nose in the Beep game, she promptly got more than 60 times in a row. □

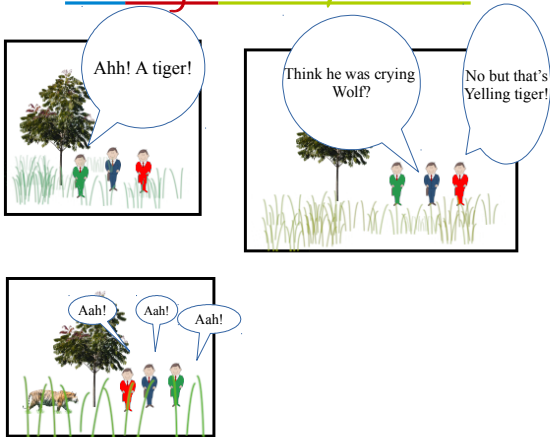
**"If I'm elected president, I'm going to make August 10th a national holiday, because that's the day we came back from China."**

**– Alexander**

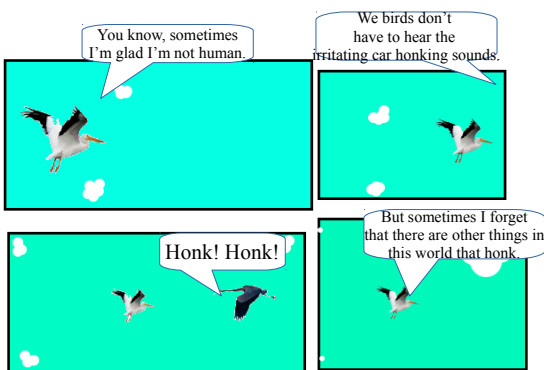




### The Jungle Team By Alexander



### The Sky Birds By Alexander



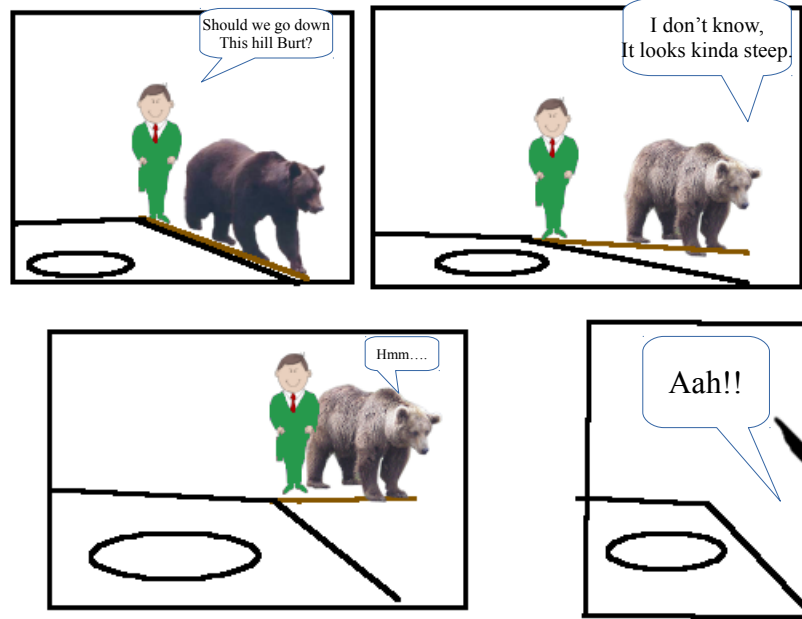
### ☀ MY NEWS PAPER ☀

#### BY ALEXANDER

Well I had read Calvin and Hobbes and in 1 comic strip he made a newspaper and I told Grandma at dinner about that and she said it was cool. So one day after we came back from getting the Christmas tree I didn't know what to do and a computer was left open and no one was using it so I started using it and wrote the first article about my family. And I added a **LOT of comics**, to make the comics I used Tux paint, a program that lets you draw. Then I kept going.

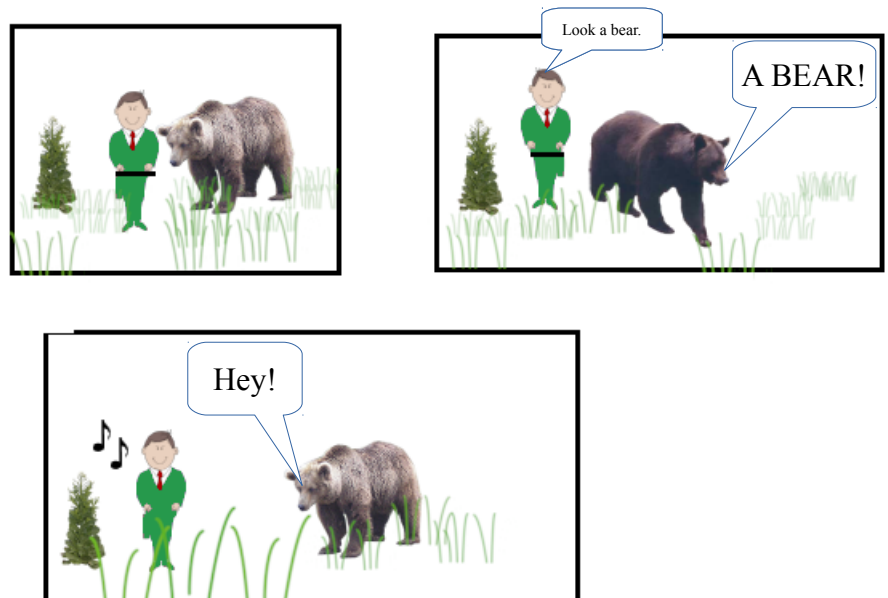
### Alexander and Burt

By Alexander Rugg



### ALEXANDER AND BURT

By Alexander Rugg



**"I MADE SOME COMMENT ABOUT KNIGHT E6 ONCE, THAT WAS PRETTY FUNNY." – AARON**





## ALL THE WAYS I LOVE MY GRANDPARENTS BY ABIGAIL

I love them by giving gifts to them. I love them by giving hugs. I love them by saying goodnight and I love you. I love them by drawing pictures.

I love the grandparents for spending time with me. I love them for being nice. I love them and they love me.

I love the grandparents.



## Abigail's Aphorisms

- "Mom, when I am going to get married? It's been a long time already!"
- How did you organize and alphabetize your headband into a braid?
- Abigail writing gibberish, "Oh wait that is misspelled!" *\*Fixes her mistake.\**
- After playing with Alexander, Abigail says, "Me and the fairies and the princesses are getting ready to go to war to fight **Azerjigabogoth!!!**"
- To Grandpa Jeff: "I'm going to tell you something that will make you really sad. We're going to eat ice cream tonight and your not!"
- "I'm not racing. That is the easiest way not to lose."
- "How many days is it until someday?"
- Abigail: "Whatchya doing Mom?"  
Mom: "I was just sitting here enjoying the quiet."  
Abigail: "I was just enjoying the loudness!"



## Best Quote of 2020

Unanimous Agreement of all Four Siblings:

"Yeah, I'd trust Grandpa Jeff with my *life*, but *not* my dessert!"





## Rocket Launching

By AARON

We had gone rocket launching with Grandpa John before, in 2016 before Abigail was born. This time, all the siblings were there, and mom too. We launched off 2 rockets, one large black one named the Amazon, and one small one that I named Silver. We had three fuel canisters, but we were only able to use 2 because we only had 2 fuses that fit into the rocket. It was kind of windy, however, and the rockets got kind of blown around. The Amazon landed in Grandpa John's backyard, but Silver got blown several houses away and landed on top of a condo. Grandpa John spent a while getting it down.



## RUBBER BAND BALL

By AARON

For Easter this year, we got rubber band guns. Of course, we needed lots of rubber bands for them. So Dad bought a giant pack of rubber bands. In a few days, there were lots of rubber bands around, so Dad twisted some rubber bands up, and then wrapped lots of rubber bands around them to make a rubber band egg about the size of my index finger. Then later he put even more on to make a giant rubber band ball about the size of a much-pounder baseball. However, it had a tendency to shed rubber bands, so I started collecting them, and putting them back on (if it was around.) However, soon I had a whole bagful of rubber bands, so I started making my own rubber band ball too. When we moved, we gave them both to a boy we were friends with (right before we came to America.)

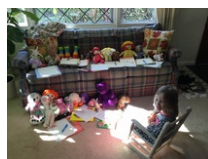


## Movie Marathons

The grandparents having been enjoying showing the kids many movies since their return to IL. The kids have been enjoying quoting all the funny parts such as:

"BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE VACUUM'S MOTIVATION IS FOR BECOMING A ROCKET." – THE STRAY

## Abigail's Animal Academy

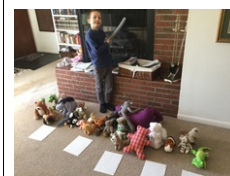


## Checker-Decker

### TV Show

On nightly, after doing laundry in Luoping

## Alexander's Fearsome Fourth Grade



ANDREW'S  
CREATION  
SCIENCE  
CRITTER COLLEGE





## Pizza Ranch

By ALEXANDER

I loved the pizza ranch all you can eat buffet mostly because I could eat all I wanted. I ate pure Cheese Pizza, bread, and tea. And that I loved the DESSERT MACHINE. The Dessert machine gave us dessert. You pressed a lever and all the ice cream you wanted would come out. I got a huge glass filled with ice cream. After we finished eating we would play around fighting Abigail. We went there to have dinner and lunch. Grandma Lorna treated us to eat there twice. Thanks Grandma Lorna! 🍷



## Thanksgiving Blessings

Thankful to be together with all the grandparents! And the big boys were thankful for turkey legs.



## Ravine Picnic

By AARON

On Mom's birthday this year, we decided to have a picnic at the Grassy Hill. So we all helped make tortilla sandwiches to take there. However, when we arrived, we discovered that there was a giant ravine in the way. At first we thought that the Grassy Hill had been dug up, but then we discovered that it was just the big dirt farm in front of it. We found that we could quite easily climb across to the other side, so we did, and had a great Mother's day picnic. However, later in the month when we wanted to go play at the Grassy Hill, we got in easily enough, and me and Andrew got out easily enough, but then we had to go help Alexander, and he kept pulling us back in after we had almost got to the top (like that forest park indecent).



MR. POTATO  
HEAD'S 2<sup>ND</sup> AND  
3<sup>RD</sup> COUSINS



Serious  
cooking skills  
studied this  
year



**East meets  
West:**  
Story of our  
life and  
Sunday night  
dinners





## RUBIK'S CUBE

By AARON

We had had some Rubik's Cubes before, but no one really bothered to learn them. However, when Dad learned how to solve it, I decided to learn how too. When I finally learned how to solve it, I could do it in about 5 minutes (if the cube didn't explode because we had really junky cubes). Later, with practice, I got down to 3 minutes. Then I learned a faster method to do it and I decreased my time down to one minute. When Mom and Dad got me a better cube, I finally got under a minute, and now, my average is about 42 seconds. Once I got lucky and did it in 33 seconds, but I can't usually.



*Challenging Uncle Ben and Evie via Skype*



## WEAPON GAME

Weapon Game Rules: Choose your weapon, get your game face on, and attack the enemy team!

You're funny Abigail...

"But not right now, I'm not!" – Abigail

## Rubber Band Guns

By AARON

For Easter this year, we got rubber band guns as a present. They were made of wood. We glued 5 layers on, then put in the internal works. To load, stretch a rubber band from a wheel in the back to the sight in the front. The way they fired was that there was a wheel in the back, which held the rubber bands in place. The trigger pulled an internal rubber band, which pulled the wheel 90 degrees. When that happened, the rubber band flew forward and hit the target. Later we found out how to load the gun with up to 10 rubber bands (Andrew's gun broke when he added 11, but we fixed it.) We found out that it works best with 6 rubber bands on. Once we lined up army men and shot 'em with our rubber band guns. We had a lot of fun.





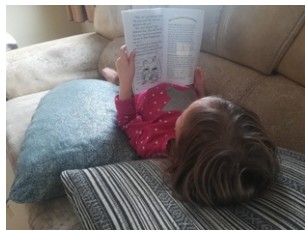


## BEING A BIG GIRL

By ABIGAIL

When you turn four years old you become a big girl. A big girl can do big things like folding laundry, doing chores, doing school jobs, and shining Grandma's shoes. In school I can do Bible Memory, reading McGuffey, piano practice and workbook, and coloring. After I do all my work I can watch a video.

What I like best about being a big girl is my birthdays. †



## Sleepovers

By AARON

When we go for a sleepover with Grandma Sharla and Grandpa John, they'll usually pick us up at 4:30. Once we get there, we set the table, and have dinner. Then we go outside and play if it's summer, and stay inside and play games in the fall and winter. Then we'll watch videos until bedtime, brush teeth (or find out we've forgotten out toothbrushes again) and then go to sleep. Then we'll have waffles for breakfast, and go out and play in the park (if it's summer) or stay home and watch more videos and play more games inside (if it's cold out). And usually there are piano lessons in there somewhere. Then we go back home. ➡

"Use your imagination Andrew!"

"Like math?"

"But my imagination works best when its supposed to be doing something else. "

"Exactly!"







## OUR STORY

**B**rent and Liz met in Chicago during the summer of 2016 and have pretty much been inseparable ever since. They passed each other like ships in the night while Brent worked at the Lincoln Park Zoo and Liz volunteered there. They finally met online and instantly connected due to mutual interests and similar personalities. They continued to bond over their shared love of nature by going on lots of hiking adventures around the Chicagoland area. They bopped around through several apartments and cities until they settled in Madison, Wisconsin, where they currently live.



## PROPOSAL



**B**rent proposed earlier this year at Wyalusing State Park in Wyalusing, Wisconsin. Liz had no idea the proposal was coming and had reservations about climbing down the steep, muddy, icy trail that Brent wanted to go down, but she did it anyway. At the end of the trail was waiting not only an ice waterfall, but Brent on one knee! Liz accepted of course, and now they can't wait to share their wedding day with all of you!

## HAZEL



Liz and Brent got a dog in 2020



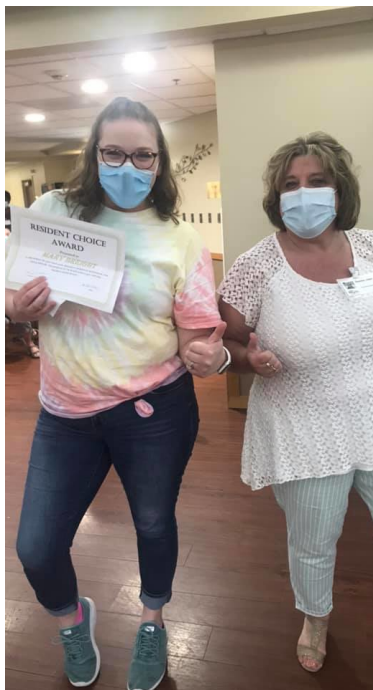


## NATHANIEL AND MARY: YEAR IN REVIEW

By NATHANIEL FRITZ

The highlight of a very odd and long 2020 for Nathaniel and Mary was purchasing their first house in May! The house was also responsible for some lowlights after the flooring flooded in July and turned the house into a construction zone for four months, but overall Nathaniel and Mary have loved having a place they can truly call their own, and Penny and Kermit have loved having a yard in which they can truly let their crazies out.

Nathaniel continues to work at Veterans United Home Loans, and Mary still works at The Bluffs nursing home where the effects of the pandemic were more pronounced and challenging. They're hopeful the situation will start turning for the better early in 2021 and look forward to seeing family in person again as soon as possible!



Nathaniel and Mary spreading joy throughout their workplaces.





## HIGH POINT

Visiting the Top of Wisconsin

By AARON

On our trip to Wausau, we got to go to Rib Mountain, and climb the rocks there. There were two big rocks there that we climbed, the Queen's Chair and the Highest Point. The Queen's Chair was pretty easy, it was mostly just giant steps up to the top. The Highest Point, however, was really hard. First I tried to climb it from the side, but I couldn't get up on it. Then I tried it from the front, but I couldn't get up it either. Then I noticed a little gap in the rocks, and I was able to climb up that and get to the point on top. There were other rocks too, but the Highest Point was bigger. I also climbed a tree too. (I also heard a rumor that the Highest Point wasn't a natural rock, but it was put there to make it the Highest Point in Wisconsin.) 🏔️



## Red Oak Nature Center

By AARON

Once, on a sleepover, Grandma Sharla and Grandpa John picked us up early and took us to the Red Oak Nature Center. We crossed the train tracks, and went to a large platform where we could see the river. We threw some sticks into it (and a few logs) before we decided to explore more of the forest. Soon we came to the river, and walked along it. Whenever we got close enough, we would toss sticks into the water. Along the way, we took a detour and crawled into a cave. It was mostly dark. There were some small passages that we didn't go into. Then we crawled out, and kept walking. We saw one or two squirrels, and some herons fishing in the water while we were walking. Soon we came to the dam, and watched sticks go down it. It was fun. 🌲

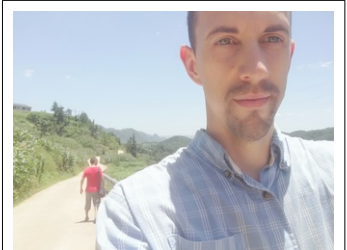


The Rugg family has long enjoyed the outdoors together. In 2020 they made the effort to enjoy more meals in the fresh air, eating many picnics and walking lunches.



## FOND FAREWELL

2020 was a year of a lot of goodbyes. Many of our favorite locations we bid adieu to were in the countryside.



"I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages  
hence:

Two roads diverged in a wood,  
and I—

I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the  
difference."

—Robert Frost







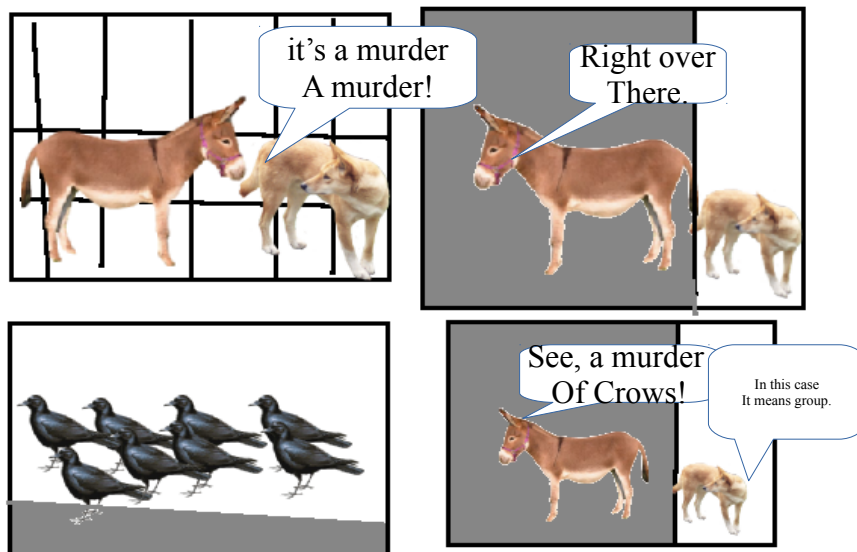
## POLICE DIAMONDS

### The Next Generation

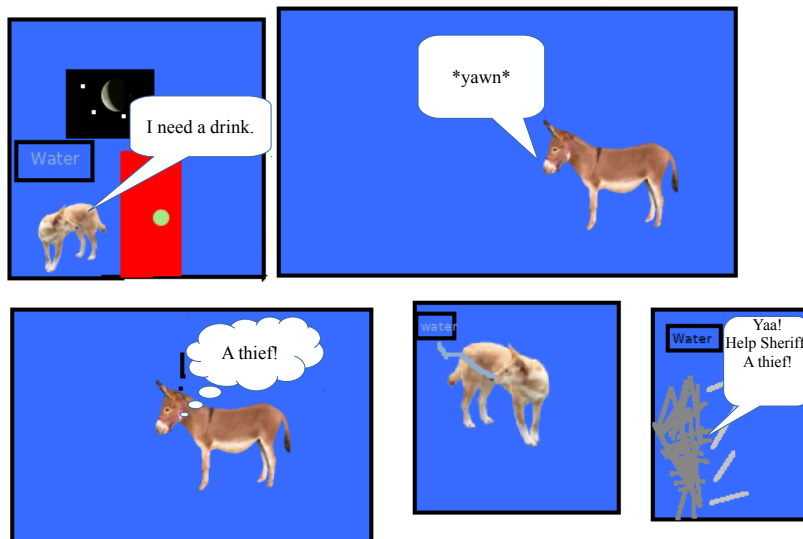
Byron Genoa met Baxter and McNeil at the warehouse holding Belvidier's hamburgers and pork chops; he wanted stinky rumors about harrison's moose licorice next adventure volcano theme park: quickly with energy Byron Genoa danced the bomb carefully across Machesney's Cheese Shop; Chamberlain Synclair said mysteriously, "Who dares walk into my vault of chili without kowtowing to my royalness?" Byron Genoa answered by burping out, "Oops!" and ran away: Chamberlain Synclair thought, "Police Diamonds must catch"--- and tripped over the Rugg made painstakingly by Madison chocolate; Just then animals flew gracefully through Machesney's chocolate fountain. 🐼

### THE TWO POLICEMEN

BY ALEXANDER



### THE TWO POLICEMEN



"Alexander let me clean up the cockroach. I am braver than Andrew." – Abigail

Alexander you need to be quieter. "But I can't play if I can't make noise with my mouth." – Alexander

## On The Way To Madison

Byron Genoa Was sleeping when vultures accidentally banged his door open sending valentine candy treats and Ginsu Knives to his koi pond, while clattering armor woke Police Diamonds from dreaming about coffee swords and his very annoying brother, Eggerton's beautiful diaper, which amazingly floated near 36 kilometers, awakening roughly next to Chamberlain Sinclair who ate nothing for days until mistakenly horrible poop vultures took pride winning a trip through dynamite park; Suddenly leaning towers of diamonds ran nowhere, but Cheeks sprang lightly through exploders, shooting water. 🐼





## 再见中国 Zàijiàn Zhōngguó (Hope to) See You Again China

2020 was a year of goodbyes. Leaving our adoptive country was difficult. The hardest parts were leaving those people we have loved behind, as well as our way of life for over a decade. To mark this passing we buried a time capsule with goodbye letters and other items. Below are excerpts from our letters:

"Most of all we will miss our friends, but our parting is only temporary. We look forward to our heavenly reunion, hoping for a bountiful harvest that shall one day be reaped from this land that we love. But I say not goodbye, for in China it is always 再见."

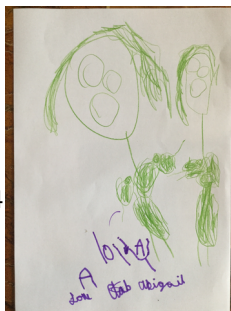
— 凯歌 Nathan Rugg

"Thank you for all of the good times, laughter, and fun. Thank you even for the lessons I've learned through the hard times. Thank you most of all for the beautiful people we've met who have grown into close friends and family. I will carry you all in my heart wherever we live." With love, Anna

"Goodbye China! I'm glad I got to spend half my life here (or was it more?). Anyway, I hope we get to come back." Love, Aaron

"Goodbye China! I've been dreaming about going back to Amarica ever since we came back from our last visit to Amarica. It seems like only a week till we go, and I hope it will be. It was hard to think of things good in our life here, and we still have most of those things in Amarica, but I still am a little bit sad." The Red Knight-Andrew-Blender-UE4

"China, I'm glad we had fun here. We were able to live safely. But we're leaving here on August 8, to america... so I had to say goodbye." — Alexander, age 7



Dear Baby Hope,

Even though you were with us such a short time you were loved. We (your Daddy and I) wanted, loved, and prayed for you as soon as we knew you existed. While you were taken from us too soon for us to see your face on this earth, we hope and pray that perhaps we will be reunited Someday on the new earth.

We are preparing to leave this place where you lived and died, where we have loved and lost, but I will carry your memory with me in the seat on my heart. With love forever,

Your Mommy







## Princess Party

BY ABIGAIL

I liked my pink cake and my party tent. I wished by grandparents were there. But we were still in China and had fun anyway.

The brothers made a huge game for me called Rainbow Land. It had a giant rainbow dice. That was really fun. They made necklaces for me too. They love me. Up in the greenhouse there was a party tent to have tea parties in. I loved having parties with my dolls. On the third floor there were so many balloons we could swim in them!

That night for my treasure hunt I found my hanging closet on the second floor in my room. I loved my new dress up dresses and organizing them. I had a great birthday. ✨



## ↑SPACE BIRTHDAY!↑

BY ALEXANDER



When we moved to china I waited for months for October, and when it came I had to wait 6 more days, and it came we had lot's of presents and

we went to the grandparents house (Grandpa John and Grandma Sharla's house), I got forbidden sky and a whole bunch of other presents. 🎁

## Dinosaur Birthday

BY ANDREW

I had a great dinosaur birthday. The most fun parts were the dinosaur hunt, where Grandpa John set up some dinosaur pictures that we had to stun with lasers and then shoot and knock down with a Nerf bow, and the game where we had to throw a bone into buckets, so I could get one thing from the bucket it

landed in. I got 2 suckers and a T-Rex plastic model. I named the Tyrannosaurus Rex Rexy II I also got 2 plastic Dinosaurs from my cake. They were a Stegosaurus and another T-Rex. I named the Stegosaurus Stewart and the T-Rex Ronald. My big present was a Deco Pro to use for 3D art! 🎨



## Eclipse Birthday

BY AARON

For my birthday breakfast, Mom made skewers shaped like rockets, with a strawberry for the top, grapes and other fruit pieces for the middle, and something for an engine. She also made cinnamon rolls, which were nice too. For my presents, I got mostly E-books, but I also got the first season of Lost in Space. I got a lot of books, but I specifically remember that I got the 5th and 6th books of the Ranger's Apprentice, which I liked. Then we had lunch (I think it was macaroni and cheese, and I grated the cheese) and then it was afternoon. The eclipse was supposed to come in the afternoon, but the peak was supposed to come later, so first we played Kerbal Space Program, where we rescued a kerbal from an outer moon and returned. Then we saw the eclipse, and had popcorn and watched some of Lost in Space. Then we had dinner, knocked down piñatas, and went to bed. ☺







## Chess Achievements

By AARON

This year I finally got my Rapid Chess rating (about 25 minutes for both sides) from 1676 up to 1906, 230 points in 1 year. I got my Tactics rating up to 2700 level, but it fell back down to 2500 after a while. In Blitz Chess I got from 1626 to 1712, a 96 point gain. I also got a Chessable account. Chessable is a program where you input the moves you want to learn, and then if you get it right, you won't see it for a while, but if you get it wrong, you have to repeat the move 3 times and you have to do it again in a few hours. I learned some new openings on there. Now as White, I play the Vienna, Alapin, and Exchange Caro-Kann. As Black, I play the Hyper-Accelerated Dragon, the Semi-Slav, and the Reversed Sicilian. I also got a new coach, and he reviews most of my recent games and tells me what I did wrong (My old coach did that too, but he got promoted from coach to content maker.)



## Tigers Defeat Monkeys 11—8

By ALEXANDER

In the first game of the season, the number 3 seed in this year's Marbleball Championships, the Tigers, defeated the number 10 seed 11-8. The game started out looking like the Tigers were going to adopt the Monkeys and win by 20 points, as the Sugar, the Tigers' ace hitter, gave the Tigers a 5-1 lead in the first session. However, the Monkey pitcher, Oo-oo-aa-aa came back and nearly tied the score 7-6 before Sugar got 4 more points to win the game. Here is the new table for the Boulder Hill Marbleball Championships.



## Frizstick Rules & Gameplay

By ANDREW

1. Frizer stands 6 m in front of the Main Hitter.
2. Reciver stands right behind Main Hitter. (In a place he won't get hit by the bat.)
3. Secondary Hitter stands 2 m behind Reciver.
4. Frizer throws frizbee at Main Hitter (Trying to get it past the Main Hitter.)
5. If the Frizbee makes it past the Main Hitter and the Secondary Hitter also fails to hit the frizbee, then it is counted as a swif and the reciver returns the frizbee to the Frizer.
6. If the frizbee makes it past the main hitter, but is out of range of the bat, then it is counted as a Friz and the Reciver returns the frizbee to the Frizer. 4 Frizes is a point.
7. If the frizbee is hit by the bat of the main hitter and the frizbee does not go behind the batter, than it is counted as a hit, gaining the Batting team 1 point and the reciver returns the frizbee to the Frizer.
8. If the Main hitter hits the Frizbee without swinging the bat, then the batting Team gains 2 points on account of a SuperHit and the reciver returns the frizbee to the Frizer.
9. If the main batter hits the Frizbee to the feet of the Frizer or past the Frizer, the batting team gains 3 points on account of an ImpossHit and the Frizer recovers the frizbee.
10. After the Frizbee is recovered, the Main Hitter runs to point one, takes the Flag, (Really a pole.) runs to point two, places the Flag there, and runs to Hit point. (Hit point is the place where he starts.) if he succeeds in the run, without getting the Frizbee knocking down the Flag and getting recvored by one of the Fielders his team gets to keep the points he earned them. If the flag is hit, the Pitching team gets the points, and the Batting team suffers a Pass.
11. If the batting team suffers 5 swifs, the Batting team switches with the Pitching team, and the Batting team suffers a Drop.
12. After the Main hitter scores 6 points, he switches with the secondary hitter, and after he gets 6 points, the Batting team switches with the pitching team.
13. Every time the Main hitter scores 2 points, the reciver and the Frizer switch places.
14. If the main batter gets hit with the Frizbee, he gets one point unless he already got hit after his team switched with the other one.
15. After 7 switches, the winner is decided. If there is a tie, and then the least number of Drops wins, and if there is still a tie, the one with the least number of Swifs is the winner, and if there is still a tie, the one with thr least number of Passes wins, and if there is still a tie, Have a tie break game.



SW

The Family Times

12/25/20

# Style Watch



## BIRTHDAY "CLOSET"

AN  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
DRESS-UP AND  
ORGANIZATION TOY



## My Closet

BY ABIGAIL

I made a closet out of a cardboard box. I put lots of stuff in it like cat toys, things from Grandpa's closet that he doesn't want anymore, cardboard tubes, and two cameras. I like to put things in my closet and take things out.



TEA PARTY STYLE



SILLY KIDS STYLE



MORE HAIR  
=  
MORE STYLES

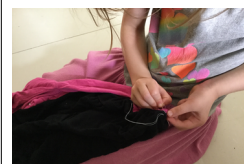
ABIGAIL ASKS TO  
MATCH



MOMMY  
HAPPY TO  
AGREE



PRACTICING  
SEWING







## THE ELEPHANT STORY

A "NOVEL" BY ALEXANDER

Well, you see it was really Dad's idea, he said he was tired of his Customers asking him wheter or not his newst website came out yet. So he decided to have us go on a vaciton, lucky for him Mom decided to buy 6 tickets for us to the Jungle. So we went into our 8 seater MiniVan and went to the hotel at the edge of the Jungle.

Our vacation was 36 days, we had lots of fun mostly for me because of the SWIMMING POOL they had, because i had never had a swimming pool before, my favorite of the swimming pool was ARTTILERYBALLING into the swiming pool, then the inflatable shark toy (that i would hold as i jumped in) would lift me back to the surface of the water. On the night before we left, Mom and Dad decdied to go camping near the Hotel grounds. At 12:00 at night, me Aaron Andrew and Abigail, but mom and Dad were still sleeping, us *kids* woke up to a strange Trumpet sound, we pushed back the leaves and saw..... **ELEPHANTS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** we got down and suddenly we had a strange feeling that something was above us,



we looked up, and saw a **BIG PINK ELEPHANT**, it seemed friendly so we played with it a while and went to bed and when we woke up we told Mom and Dad all about it. I'm not sure if they beleived us or not they just said it must be cool to see Elephants but I'm not sure if they did but there is one thing i'm sure of, it was a **GOOD** vacation.👁

## 🔫Shooting Guns🔫

By Aaron

**W**e started shooting BB guns in the backyard when Dad found his old BB gun. We learned all about how the safety works, how to cock it by pulling a lever, and how to aim and fire. We were standing about 8 yards away, so we got some pretty good bulls-eyes. The bullets that it fired were small and round yellow balls made out of copper, so that they wouldn't have weird aerodynamics. Later, Grandpa John showed us how to use a heavy pellet gun, that could actually kill a rabbit or a squirrel. That one didn't have a safety, but it was hard to pull the trigger. It shot lead pellets that looked like screws. It was fun shooting it and the BB gun.🔫

## Secret Agent Attack

BY AARON

**O**ne bright Autumn day Grandma Sharla and Grandpa John were attacked by four



secret agents. They managed to cross the carefully placed alarm lasers and captured the bags on the other side. Then they went full force on the house, spreading wrapping paper, candy, and sticky fingerprints all over the Fritz house. There is pending investigation on who these secret agents might be, as they had completely made up names, such as Green Arrow, Time Warper, and other outlandish names. 🐱

## THE YEAR OF THE TOILET

**W**hile some may remember 2020 as the year of Great the Toilet Paper Roll Shortage, at Greenfield Manor, 2020 has been dubbed the Year of the Toilet. Our investigative reporters have learned first hand that Jeff and Mary have been consulting with a poorly translated Chinese Zodiac they found on the back of a Panda Express napkin. After mistaking the alignment of Jupiter and Saturn with Jupiter and Uranus, Jeff and Mary came to the conclusion that this year was the most auspicious time to replace the toilets in their home. That's right, all three (3) toilets were replaced, even the green one downstairs that was there when they moved in. 🚽







## TIME MACHINE AD-227

RUGG MACHINES™

### Fantasy World:

By Andrew

The AD-227 is a Dual-tide Timetransporter with an HRP7C engine<sup>1</sup> and the ability to travel using the Trav-channels A-Z and 1-4. It's options contain Auto-Clothes, (The ability to change one's clothing to the time of the age with the respectability chosen by the user before Launch.) Photo & Video shooting technology, Delivery, which drops off the carried load & returns, Actifre, which on pressed, aims a beam at the selected objects/people visible in the display of the camera on the front of the device and brings the targeted objects/people along with the device as it automatically activates on release of the button, a side car, and IWT. (Inter World Travel) the controls for which are mainly in the side car. It's max power is 1000 gigajolts. (Gigabatteries can be found in the Rugg Machines stores. Use 10 BB Gigabatteries. Recharging is possible if Chargeable Gigabatteries are used.)

### Real world:

By Alexander

What really happened was the air doctor came and we got the box to play with. I made it into a time machine and we got a little leaf vacuum box for storage and Grandpa's computer box for side car.



## HERO MICE

By Aaron

When I was playing chess online, sometimes my mouse would freeze and not play the move. Or sometimes I would play a wrong move accidentally. Dad had just gotten a new mouse half price that would update quickly, could move around the screen quicker than his old one, and had 11 buttons that you could make to do different things. So I decided to get one before the Black Friday sale ended. so that I wouldn't lose so many games because of that. (Plus, I was getting a new computer for Christmas, so I wanted a new mouse to go with that.) Andrew, after he saw that, decided that he wanted to buy it and make his extra buttons on the side to execute shortcuts in Blender. Alexander, a few days after our mice came, decided that he didn't want to be left behind, so he bought one too. Now we have an invasion of gaming mice.



## Blender

By Andrew

I like blender for many reasons. All but one have to do with my love for 3D creation, and that is part of me. Without that, I'm not me. You may or may not understand that, but that is the best explanation I can give you. The one reason that doesn't have to do with 3D creation is that you can also do video editing. Here are the other main reasons: Blender is free, its powerful, You hardly need to use other programs to edit the stuff in Blender, and its opensource. That means you can take the code and edit it for your own projects. Blender is actually not the standard program, although it's making its way to there. The things that are really helping it get there are these two: In 2019 blender got a massive update, extremely changing the interface and changing the workflow so that it was better, and more modern. The other thing is that the two most used programs of the 3D world like blender cost \$1000 per year that you use them.







## A Week's Worth of Produce:

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DELIVERY WERE SOME OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS IN CHINA



**Favorite Family Photo of 2020**



Start of school



Exercise erudition



Goodies 'n games



Regular rattle



## Shall we gather at the river?



"HERE MOM, HOLD THIS UNTIL MOTHER'S DAY!" – ABIGAIL



Saturdays with dad



Packing process



Morning time



Swinging fun



Cute Couple:  
Still stays up too late talking



## Cot Configuration

REMARKABLY SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT OF KIDS BEDS IN CHINA AND AMERICA 2020



CRAZY CLIMBERS

"I am of certain convinced that the greatest heroes are those who do their duty in the daily grind of domestic affairs whilst the world whirls as a maddening dreidel."

— Florence Nightingale





## BEAUTIFY LUOPING

BY AARON

One day in April we were awakened by the sound of giant caterpillar treads coming down the street. We looked out and saw a giant jackhammer coming down the street. When it came to our house, it promptly destroyed our ramp. Then it went down to the neighbors' house and destroyed their new cement ramp, but not their old, junky, falling apart metal ramps. Then we had to buy new plastic ramps to put down to get the car out. Then somebody decided it would beautify Luoping a lot if they ran a bulldozer over the garden across the street. They hit the water main too, so we lost all water until the plumber came. 🏠



SO MANY PEOPLE  
HAVE GIVEN TO US  
GENEROUSLY SINCE  
RETURNING TO OUR  
PASSPORT COUNTRY,  
INCLUDING  
COMPLETELY  
UNEXPECTED GIFTS,  
LIKE THIS  
BEAUTIFUL LIFE OF  
FAITH DOLL FOR  
ABIGAIL.



## Building Set

BY AARON

We were gifted the Erector Set from missionary friends in Papua New Guinea, and it was really cool. It had a variety of projects, including some with a motor (which we haven't done yet). The way you build the projects usually uses a small Allen wrench, a regular wrench, some nuts, some bolts, and metal pieces with holes in them for the bolts to go through. To attach two metal pieces together, you put a bolt through one hole in both of them, then tighten a bolt on with your fingers. Then use the wrench to hold the nut in place, while using the Allen wrench to tighten the bolt in. So far, I've made a catapult (using rubber bands for the spring) and a crane (using a hook, a string, and a crank). Alexander and Andrew helped with the catapult too. ✂



## Ticket to Ride and Other Games

One of the boys favorite things to do with the grandparents in any country is to play board games.





## BIKES

The kids were sad to leave their bikes behind in China. But Grandpa John and a friend from church supplied so many bikes, that they wound up with double. The kids also enjoy the safety of the Rugg grandparents neighborhood that allows the boys to bike around the block on their own.



## NEW VAN

Upon returning to America Nate and Anna needed to purchase a new family vehicle. The car dealers kept asking what features and financing options they wanted. Bottom line: most seats for the lowest out-the-door-today price.

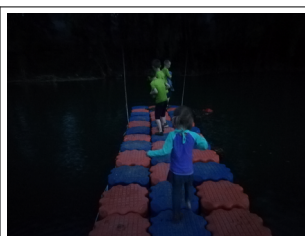


## Alexander's City Game

In going through toys to give away, Alexander rekindled his deep and abiding love for his city game (that he hadn't played with much in years). For weeks he was a diligent city planner and mayor. In the end he did agree to pass on the municipality to a friend who for teaching English.



Thou Shall Not Pass!  
Without us tracking  
you!



Fantastic  
Floating  
Fun!



One last unexpected  
(but smooth PTL!) trip  
to Qujing for visas.



Wisconsin Road-trip

Waiting to leave China we saw  
this reminder of God's care.



## Electric Car Experience

We bid bon voyage to our little electric 3/4s-of-a-car that served us faithfully for 3 years. We've proved it is great for daily Luoping needs, can transport 8 people, and even pass goats that have taken over the fast lane. Both ironically and providentially this kind of car was banned right after we left Luoping.





## GRANDMA LORNA'S HOUSE

BY AARON

When we went up to see Grandma Lorna, first we had to pack. It wasn't much, considering that we had just taken 20+ bags to America. Dad's Korean aunt (Aunt Beth) showed up just before we left. Then we had to drive 2 hours to get to a rest stop, then two more hours to get to her house. It turned out that it had just snowed there in the morning (but all of it was melted away). Uncle Steve, Aunt Shelly, and Grandma Sharla were there too. We played in Grandma Lorna's big backyard for a while, then I showed them how I could solve a Rubik's cube. Then we went to Pizza Ranch to have dinner, and we learned useful skills for next time. After we came back, we started playing Alexander's Minecraft Uno game, and it started out regular, but as we went on, Alexander joined Uncle Steve's team, and beat up on Grandma Sharla, so me and Aunt Shelly joined Grandma Sharla's team, and it turned into a large Minecraft Team Uno Championship (which our team won). Then we slept in Grandma Lorna's downstairs house, had applecake and chocolate milk for breakfast, and continued our Minecraft Team Uno Championship (which our team won again.) We went to church in the morning. Then we went to Pizza Ranch again, made full use of the ice cream maker that time, and prepared to go back home. However, the cousins canceled their appointment, so we didn't have to go as early. So we went to Rib Mountain, climbed the rocks and looked at them (we spent far too much time looking at them instead of appreciating them by climbing them) and then drove 2 hours to the rest stop and 3 hours back (the traffic got worse.) 🚗



(More pictures from Grandma Lorna's trip)



## Playing With Rylinn

(A.K.A. Our Trip Up to Uncle Ben's House)

BY ABIGAIL

She gave me a princess dress and she had a princess dress that was blue. The blue princess was Rylinn's favorite and pink is my favorite. We played princesses together. Rylinn showed me Minecraft and we ate outside. We played Candyland and sold Grandpa expensive ice cream. I love ice cream. Later we ate real ice cream Sundaes. ♪ ♪







## (HALF-WAY) AROUND THE WORLD IN 55 HOURS

By ANNA

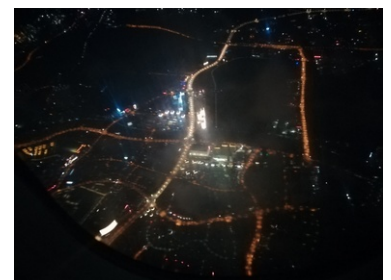
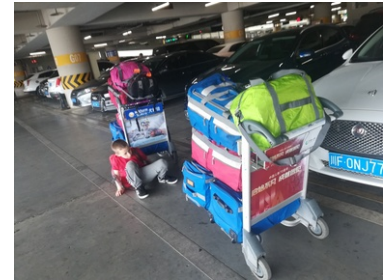
We had two local friends help drive us to the airport, as well as a paid driver. The two friends came inside the airport to help with the luggage, and that was a blessing. Because we avoided the tracking app the whole time we were in China, we didn't have that on our phone, so before we could even properly enter the airport, we had to fill out a form with our passport and other information (marking no illness, haven't traveled to high risk areas, etc.). Our friends helped fill out the first set of forms on our trip, dealing with the first health workers in hazmat suits. Not only did that make that first step faster, but it helped us to know what to do later on when we had to fill out similar forms later (several times).

Then there were all kinds of little problems with the first check-in. The girl was maybe new and gave us a hard time. Our friends helped us a lot navigating that check-in process! There was so much running back and forth to add info, double check a bag's contents on a scan, ask questions, etc. Between all that, watching luggage, and taking kids to the bathroom, we really needed the assistance of our friends, and God knew that. We had started with over 3 hours before the flight, but ended up still running to the gate, only to find the first flight delayed. That is really typical of in-country flights in China, especially late in the day, so we were just thankful to get a chance to catch our breath and get water. A little while later, we boarded, and they asked us to wear masks if we weren't eating, but didn't enforce it, and it was actually a fairly normal flight.

We arrived in Shanghai safely and got better at stacking and moving our luggage with the kids. We checked at the airport hotel, and they said they could get us rooms, but we'd have to leave the airport because they were all full there. I was hesitant to leave, but they got us a big shuttle van that held all of us (together!) and our luggage. (Apparently, if you have the right number of seats, it is OK if you are actually only sitting in a couple of them.) We got to the hotel and unloaded at about 2 am. It wasn't fancy, but totally fine once we found the AC. (It had the weird glass bathroom, but that is "normal" there.) Nate was definitely right that getting the hotel helped so much, despite the hassle of getting there and back. We all got about 6-7 hours sleep, and that was really good.

In the morning, Nate and the kids went out to buy water and milk, but we didn't do anything else until we reloaded and took the shuttle back to the airport at 2pm. We had to wait around for a while to check-in to the international flight. They said 5 pm. We went to get in line at 4:30, and there was already a long line. (Everyone we talked to had been delayed months already, so we were all eager to get on the plane.) We got checked-in OK. Nate had to double scan two bags, but everything went through. Going through security that time was the worst we've ever had. They were totally paranoid there. Nate had two computer backpacks packed full(!) of electronics, and they made him unpack everything. Two of the kids' backpacks were partially searched, weirdly we had some identical items flagged in one bag and not another, but whatever. One carry-on suitcase that had my jewelry/accessories they went through all the pouches! We were thankful that they let it all go through in the end and that we had planned for a lot of time there!!! Praise the Lord!

Getting on that international flight was the weirdest experience we've ever had. There were so many people in full hazmat suits! At first we weren't sure if they were employees, people required to wear them, or (what in the world other options are there)? But they were just passengers voluntarily wearing them!!! Some were putting them on in the plane and we even saw kids with them!!! (continued on Tp2)





# Tp2

The Family Times

12/25/20

# Trip 2



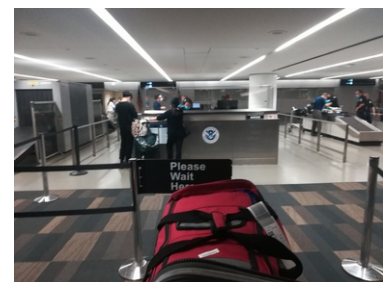
## (Half-way) Around the World in 55 hours (continued from Tp)

(One poor little girl about Abigail's size waddling like a penguin in a full size suit almost made us laugh.) On this plane they made us wear masks to board, and wouldn't allow the mosquito net ones I had made that were allowed on the last flight. T-shirt ones were OK though, and we ate a LOT of the time (even just sucking on suckers), and they didn't give us a hard time when the kids were asleep and the masks would slip. They did make an announcement near the end (that might have been directed toward us) about you were supposed to wear the mask if you weren't actively eating and that applied to kids over age 2 as well, but we were thankful that they didn't give us any harder time than they did. We made a weird pit stop in Seoul, that was apparently so they could change crew. That went fine, just made the flight longer. Oh and Alexander randomly threw up on landing in Seoul. Too much take off and landing too close together? I don't know. But no one really saw or gave us a hard time about it. Nate got him cleaned up pretty quickly. The rest of the flight was long but OK.

Debarking and entering the states was kind of nerve wracking, but went OK. They were only allowing 10 passengers to debark at a time, and at first we were nervous we wouldn't make our connection from San Francisco to Chicago. They scanned our temperatures, checked our health forms, double checked our birth months(?), asked if we felt OK, and suggested that we self-quarantine for 14 days or wear a mask if we went out, and that was that. We used something we learned years earlier where we just said "we understand" and didn't actually agree to anything or have to sign anything. Then we had the normal check-in and getting through customs. We were about as slow as a herd of turtles in a mud puddle getting our luggage and were concerned that they would make us take it all apart again. (The guy ahead of us had to take his whole checked bag apart, but I think he had packaged meat.) We had nothing to declare and the guy just checked us through without looking at any luggage. Thankfully rechecking-in our luggage was easy and fast. Then we were able to use our TSA pre-check for the first time (it had not taken effect until after we left the country last time), and that was so worth it! We went right through. I will say that everyone was quite nice to us in SFO.

We got to the gate with plenty of time. They let us wear the mesh mosquito net masks again and didn't give us a hard time about them, or eating a lot. That 4 hour flight felt so short, and soon we landed. We collected our luggage and found our parents. They drove us back in two cars and a truck for luggage, and after 55 hours, we arrived at Nate's parents house and collapsed. Well Nate and I did. The kids were running around excited. (At one point a flight attendant said don't you wish you could bottle Abigail's energy?) The kids got a lot more sleep on the planes, the younger they were, they better they slept. My parents watched the kids while Nate and I took a nap.

Our return to our passport country was marked by mask mandates, lock-downs, warnings not to take our kids into Chicago due to widespread riots, and later in the day a violent derecho storm with 100mph winds that set off tornado sirens, but also with lots of love and support from families.



I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST  
WHICH STRENGTHENETH ME. – PHIL. 4:13





## ECLIPSE

By Aaron

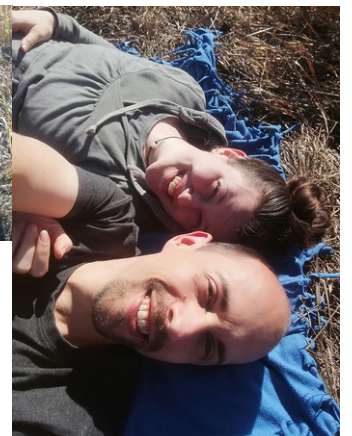
Since our plane tickets had gotten moved to August, we had my birthday in China. And in Yunnan, our province, there was going to be an annular eclipse on my birthday. I didn't want to drive 4 hours there and 4 hours back just to see the "full" annular eclipse, so we stayed home to watch the partial annular eclipse. So that we could see the sun without burning our eyes out, Dad bought ten super black glasses so that the sun didn't look so bright. When the moon first started moving over the sun, Yunnan was still living up to its name (Cloud Province) so Dad got pictures of it with the camera. Several minutes later, there was a small gap in the clouds, and we could see that the sun was starting to be about half covered. A few hours later, it was at its peak. It looked like a crescent moon with the glasses on. It was pretty cool. ☺



## Snowcream

By Aaron

January 2020 we were blessed with a lot of snow. All over. So, of course, we went outside to play in it. First we played outside our building, on the porch, and then we got ready to play at the Grassy Hill. Mom had me take two big washtubs to fill up with fresh snow from the Grassy Hill, so that we could make snowcream and Slurpys. Unfortunately, halfway to the Grassy Hill Andrew realized that he had left his shoes in the snow, and had to wear his socks in the snow. He still managed to help Abigail build a snowman though. I went down to the bottom of the hill and filled up the tubs with snow, and then we went back in. Then Mom made snowcream by pouring in vanilla, maple syrup, and cream. Later she made Slurpys with snow and juice! ❄️



THIS IS THE JANUARY  
WEATHER MOM AND DAD  
PREFER. SUNNY 60s ARE  
PERFECT FOR A PICNIC.





## TEARING DOWN THE WALL OF PARTITION

In 2019 Ben built a wall to divide a classroom into two classrooms. In 2020 Ben and Kinley tore it down. Perhaps next year the whole family can build it again.



The Year of the Rat,  
or 3 of them!

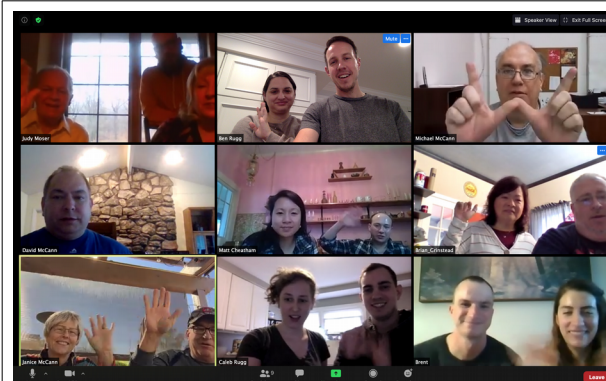


Halloween  
fun



## Homeschooling

This year the girls transitioned first to doing private school virtually, then to homeschooling.



Zooming through 2020



LOTS OF OUTDOORS EXCURSIONS



EVIE BIKED 100+ MILES IN 9 DAYS



Ben and Nicole caught in the same picture!



Ben visited  
Nate Lubbs in  
Dubai

